

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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TAGS: ETEL, TATT, TECH, AORG, PORT, ITU, UNESCO, FR, IT,
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SUBJECT: ITU OFFICIAL'S VIEWS ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL
BUREAU OF INFORMATICS AND "SPIN" CONFERENCE

1. ILHAN UYGUR, CHIEF OF COMPUTER DEPARTMENT, INTER-
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION, HAS DISCUSSED WITH
U.S. TELECOMMUNICATIONS ATTACHE TWO ARTICLES THAT
APPEARED IN 31 JUL 78 ISSUE OF BOSTON WEEKLY
PUBLICATION "COMPUTERWORLD." BOTH CONCERN INTER-
GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON STRATEGIES AND POLICIES IN
INFORMATICS (SPIN) SPONSORED JOINTLY BY UNESCO AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL BUREAU FOR INFORMATICS (IBI) AND
SCHEDULED TO BE HELD AT MALAGA-TORREMOLINOS 28 AUG -
6 SEP 78.

2. FIRST ARTICLE, HEADLINED "FRENCH PONDERING OFFER TO
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LDC'S", REPORTS FRENCH SEARCH FOR COUNTER TO "EXPECTED
U.S. OFFER OF A GLOBAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK AND
FREE TERMINAL FACILITIES TO ALLOW LESS-DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES...ACCESS TO U.S. DATA BASES." ARTICLE
ATTRIBUTES TO IBI DIRECTOR GENERAL FIRMIN A. BERNASCONI
STATEMENT THAT U.S. IS INTERESTED IN COOPERATING WITH
IBI THOUGH IT WILL PROBABLY NOT JOIN.

3. SECOND ARTICLE, HEADLINED "SPIN MEETING TAKING ON STRONG POLITICAL TONE", DESCRIBES UNESCO INVOLVEMENT WITH CONFERENCE AND STATES FRENCH WOULD BE DISTURBED SHOULD U.S. DECIDE TO JOIN IBI SINCE THIS WOULD COUNTER FRENCH PREDOMINANCE IN THIRD WORLD ACTIVITIES.

4. UYGUR BRIEFLY SKETCHED HIS VERSION OF BACKGROUND AS FOLLOWS: PREDECESSOR TO IBI WAS SET UP IN ROME ABOUT 20 YEARS AGO AND FOUNDERED FOR LACK OF ADEQUATE RESOURCES. UNESCO ATTEMPTS TO EXPAND INTO IBI SPHERE DATE BACK 4 OR 5 YEARS. FRANCE AND OTHER EUROPEAN AND THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES, USING IRANIAN AND SAUDI ARABIAN MONEY, SPONSOR IBI CONFERENCES AND PAY TRAVEL AND PER DIEM COSTS TO ATTRACT DELEGATES. IBI CONSISTS OF ARGENTINE DIRECTOR GENERAL, ABOUT 3 ASSISTANT DIRECTORS GENERAL AND A SECRETARY. CONSULTANTS ARE HIRED TO PREPARE VOLUMINOUS REPORTS WITH LITTLE CONTENT. UNESCO PLENIPOTENTIARY AT NAIGOBİ SCHEDULED SPIN WHICH IS TO LAST TEN DAYS. UN HEADQUARTERS IS IGNORING IBI ON BASIS IT HAS NO OFFICIAL (UN) STATUS AND THAT UNESCO SHOULD NOT "GET INTO EVERYTHING." ECOSOC RECENTLY PASSED RESOLUTION AT GENEVA WHILE KNOWLEDGEABLE PEOPLE WERE AWAY ON VACATION CALLING UPON UNESCO TO COOPERATE WITH IBI AND FOR UNESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL TO REPORT RESULTS OF SPIN TO ECOSOC. EARLIER, UNESCO HAD SUCCEEDED IN HAVING PASSAGE INSERTED IN UN RESOLUTION 1903 ON TRANSFER TO COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR DEVELOPMENT, THUS PAVING WAY FOR EXPANSION INTO NEW SPHERE.

5. UYGUR SEES ALL OF THIS AS IBI/UNESCO PLOY TO MOVE INTO INFORMATICS COMMUNICATION AREA. HIS VIEW IS THAT THE COMPUTER IS NOT ITU'S BUSINESS BUT THAT TRANSMISSION OF COMPUTER DATA DEFINITELY IS. DIFFICULTY, AS HE SEES IT, IS THAT IT IS EASY TO DECEIVE PEOPLE LACKING TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE INTO PERMITTING EXPANSION OF IBI/UNESCO INTO LATTER AREA.

6. COMMENT: WHILE UYGUR'S COMMENTS ARE OBVIOUSLY COLORED BY HIS ITU POSITION, HE IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO MISSION AS SERIOUS AND PRO-U.S. (HE IS M.I.T.-EDUCATED TURK) PROFESSIONAL WHO CALLS SHOTS AS HE SEES THEM EVEN WHEN HIS VIEWS DO NOT REFLECT FAVORABLY ON ITU. HE IS OBVIOUSLY DISTURBED AT POSSIBLE U.S. INVOLVEMENT WITH IBI, WHICH HE REGARDS AS HAVING NO WORTHWHILE PURPOSE AND WHOSE BACKERS HE SEES AS LACKING ANY POSITIVE MOTIVATION.

7. UYGUR WAS TOLD HIS COMMENTS WOULD BE REPORTED TO

DEPARTMENT FOR ANY COMMENTS IT MIGHT HAVE. SORENSON

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